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Scheele Joins Donovan Efforts To Speed Release of Prisoners

HAVANA, Dec. 20 (AP) — Former United States Surgeon General Leonard Scheele accompanied negotiator James E. Donovan to Havana today from Miami in an effort to speed liberation of 113 Cuban invasion prisoners.

Scheele, of Summit, N. J., will serve as consultant in ransom talks with Fidel Castro. He will answer questions about the type of medical supplies offered in exchange for the captives.

Donovan had returned to Miami from Havana for overnight conferences with U. S. officials.

Hope persisted in many quarters that the prisoners might be in Miami this weekend.

At Port Everglades, Fla., the freighter African Pilot arrived from Baltimore, and began taking on millions of dollars worth of pharmaceuticals and foodstuffs donated for the American Red Cross-sponsored operation.

Plans were for the loading to continue around the clock with the vessel ready to sail Saturday if negotiations go through.

The U. S. Coast Guard controlled the area where the 460-foot freighter was docked. Russell Jones, a Red Cross official, explained "we are guarding against any possible sabotage."

At Homestead, Fla., Government officials continued prepa-

rations for receiving the men captured in the unsuccessful April 17, 1961, Bay of Pigs invasion.

Plans called for flying them to Homestead Air Force Base aboard charter airliners. After being processed, the men

Red Cross headquarters arranging collection of ransom supplies. Page A12.

Administration praises Cuban prisoner ransom efforts made by James E. Donovan and American Red Cross. Page A12.

would be taken to Miami's Bayfront Park for reunion with relatives. Arrangements were being made with hospitals for treatment of ailing prisoners.

At Miami's Opa-Locka Air Field, stockpiling of ransom supplies proceeded, with donations arriving by plane, truck, and train. The total received was reported at \$53 million, compared with Castro's original \$62 million demand. Red Cross officials say goods valued at \$53 million have been donated.

The first truckload of pharmaceuticals was dis-

patched from the Opa-Locka stockpile to Port Everglades for loading. Other materials arrived at Port Everglades by train directly from northern shipping points in 11 box cars.

Donovan left Miami without conferring with members of the Cuban Families Committee, in whose name Castro officially is negotiating.

Enrique Llaca, committee director, said in Miami, "This is a good sign. It means there is no bad news. If he had come to confer with us it would have meant a possible hitch in the proceedings."

With Donovan in Havana were three committee officials, Berta Barreto, Virginia Beatencourt, and Alvaro Sanchez.

Soviet Sets Off 35th Arctic Test

United Press International

Russia set off a low-yield nuclear device in the Arctic atmosphere yesterday, the U. S. Atomic Energy Commission reported. It was the 35th in the present series.

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